

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a logically merged web module for a web application, comprising:
 - determining if the web application includes a reference to at least one shared web module, that is capable of being incorporated into a plurality of web applications, in a shared web module designation file, wherein the shared web module description file includes all descriptors that reference the shared web modules;
 - ~~identifying~~ specifying a path to a location of the at least one shared web module; and
 - logically merging the at least one shared web module with web modules of the web application, in accordance with the shared web module designation file ~~if any~~, to generate a logically merged web application.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - loading the logically merged web application into a web container.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the web application is an enterprise archive (EAR) and wherein the logically merged web application is a logically merged EAR.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one shared web module includes at least one of a web archive (WAR) file, an enterprise java bean (EJB) archive file, and a resource archive (RAR) file.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein logically merging the at least one shared web module with web modules of the web application includes:
 - determining a priority associated with the at least one shared web module; and
 - resolving any conflicts between shared web modules in the at least one shared web module and conflicts between the at least one shared web module and web modules of the web application, if any.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the steps of determining, specifying ~~identifying~~, and logically merging are performed during an initialization process of a runtime environment for initializing the web application to be run on a server.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein logically merging the at least one shared web module with the web modules of the web application includes using a service provider interface (SPI) that provides merge logic for merging different module types.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the container uses one or more application program interfaces (APIs) to identify ~~[[a]]~~the path to the at least one shared web module and loads the at least one shared web module when loading the logically merged web application.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein logically merging the at least one shared web module with web modules of the web application includes at least one of relinking references to the at least one shared web module in the web modules of the web application, extrapolating policy information for the at least one shared web module from a policy file associated with the web application, and modifying a class path for the web application to include paths to each of the at least one shared web modules.
11. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for generating a logically merged web module for a web application, comprising a computer usable recordable type medium having computer executable instructions tangibly embodied thereon, the computer executable instructions comprising:
- first instructions for determining if the web application includes a reference to at least one shared web module that is capable of being incorporated into a plurality of web applications in a shared web module designation file wherein the shared web module description file includes all descriptors that reference the shared web modules;
 - second instructions for ~~identifying~~ specifying a path to a location of the at least one shared web module; and
 - third instructions for logically merging the at least one shared web module with web modules of the web application, in accordance with the shared web module designation file if any, to generate a logically merged web application.
12. (Original) The computer program product of claim 11, further comprising:
- fourth instructions for loading the logically merged web application into a web container.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the third instructions for logically merging the at least one shared web module with web modules of the web application include:

instructions for determining a priority associated with the at least one shared web module; and
instructions for resolving any conflicts between shared web modules in the at least one shared web module and conflicts between the at least one shared web module and web modules of the web application, if any.

15. (Original) The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the first, second and third instructions are executed during an initialization process of a runtime environment for initializing the web application to be run on a server.

16. (Original) The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the third instructions for logically merging the at least one shared web module with the web modules of the web application include instructions for using a service provider interface (SPI) that provides merge logic for merging different module resources.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 12, wherein the container uses one or more application program interfaces (APIs) to identify ~~[[a]]~~the path to the at least one shared web module.

18. (Original) The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the third instructions for logically merging the at least one shared web module with web modules of the web application include at least one of instructions for relinking references to the at least one shared web module in the web modules of the web application, instructions for extrapolating policy information for the at least one shared web module from a policy file associated with the web application, and instructions for modifying a class path for the web application to include paths to each of the at least one shared web modules.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for generating a logically merged web module for a web application, comprising:

means for determining if the web application includes a reference to at least one shared web module that is capable of being incorporated into a plurality of web applications in a shared web module

designation file wherein the shared web module description file includes all descriptors that reference the shared web modules;

means for ~~identifying~~ specifying a path to a location of the at least one shared web module; and

means for logically merging the at least one shared web module with web modules of the web application, in accordance with the shared web module designation file if any, to generate a logically merged web application.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising:

means for loading the logically merged web application into a web container.